

INDIAN AFFAIRS MANUAL

Part 77

Overview

Chapter 1

Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations

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- 1.1 Purpose.** This chapter establishes the policy and responsibilities of the Land Buy-Back Program (LBBP) for Tribal Nations. The LBBP operates in collaboration with the Department of the Interior (DOI) to ensure implementation of all land consolidation aspects of the Settlement Agreement in *Cobell v. Salazar*. This policy is specific to LBBP operations within Indian Affairs (IA), including the LBBP Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Acquisition Center and the authorities of the BIA Acquisition Center Director.
- 1.2 Scope.** This policy applies to the LBBP BIA Acquisition Center and to all BIA offices in the Regions where the LBBP is acquiring or has acquired fractional interests in trust or restricted lands. This policy does not apply to the previous Indian Land Consolidation Program that ended operations April 22, 2015 (see Attachment 1).
- 1.3 Policy.** The LBBP for Tribal Nations was established by Secretarial Order 3325 as part of the Settlement Agreement in *Cobell v. Salazar*, No. 96-CV-1285-JR. In conjunction with the DOI, the LBBP endeavors to:
- A. Reduce the number of fractional interests in trust or restricted lands, giving priority to the most highly fractionated tracts of land in accordance with the Settlement;
 - B. Increase the number of trust or restricted acres in tribal land bases by focusing on cost-effective acquisitions, which will promote tribal sovereignty and self-determination;
 - C. Increase the number of trust or restricted tracts in which the tribe has majority ownership in order to facilitate economic development or other uses;
 - D. Target fractionated tracts that are amenable to cost-efficient valuation techniques;
 - E. Provide clear, concise information and guidance to individual Indian land owners concerning their fractional interests and the opportunity to voluntarily participate in the LBBP.

The Acquisition Center in Billings, Montana provides oversight of the Acquisition Center Field Operations, located in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

1.4 Authority.

- A. P.L. 106-462, Indian Land Consolidation Act Amendments of 2000
- B. P.L. 108-374, American Indian Probate Reform Act of 2004
- C. P.L. 111-291, Claims Resolution Act of 2010

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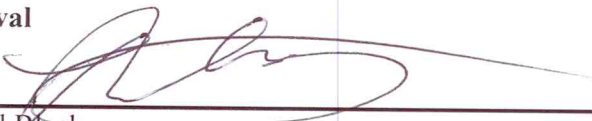
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- D. Secretary of the Interior Order (SO) No. 3325, Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations

1.5 Responsibilities.

- A. **Director, BIA** is responsible for the development of national policy affecting Indian lands.
- B. **Deputy Bureau Director, Field Operations** is responsible for oversight of Regional Directors and disseminating policy to them.
- C. **Deputy Bureau Director, Office of Trust Services (OTS)** is responsible for providing support to the LBBP, and disseminating Trust-related policy and information to the Regional Directors.
- D. **LBBP Acquisition Center Director** is the designated authority to accept/approve title deeds transferring fractionated land interests from an individual to the tribe with jurisdiction. The Acquisition Director is responsible for sending out offers pursuant BBP policies, and processing completed deeds returned by willing sellers.
- E. **Regional Directors** are responsible for carrying out policy as directed, and for overseeing the implementation of policy either directly or via Agency Superintendents.

Approval



Michael Black
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs



Date

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Attachment 1



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Washington, DC 20240

APR 22 2015

Memorandum

To: All Regional Directors
From: Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs 
Subject: Indian Land Consolidation Center – Status Center and Deeds Approval

Please be advised that the Indian Land Consolidation Center (ILCC) has shut down its business operations located in Ashland, Wisconsin. All staff employed with ILCC have been transferred to other positions in the Bureau. I am grateful to these employees for their loyalty, hard work, and dedication.

It is my hope that there will be minimal impact resulting from this closure. To avoid any delays in our normal processing of ILCA deeds, affidavits and corrections, I am delegating this Authority back to the Regional Directors pursuant to 201 DM 8, 230 DB1 to the Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs by 3 IAM 2.

In efforts to continue the ILCC recoup processing, I am designating Dawn Selwyn, Trust Reform Liaison Officer, with the Office of Trust Services to sign approval on SF1081's for ILCC recoup processing and lien satisfactions. Upon Ms. Selwyn's approval, the SF1081 will be forwarded to the Midwest Land Titles and Records Office (MWLTRO) for further processing. The MWLTRO will work with the Suspense Deposit Systems for receipt and the Office of the Special Trustee for distribution.

All delegation and designation is effective immediately until policies and procedures are revised to reflect this change in operations. If you have any questions, please contact Helen Riggs, Deputy Bureau Director, Trust Services at (202) 208-5831. Your cooperation is appreciated.

FEB 22 2016

#16-19, Issued:
Replaces #13-81, Issued: 11/26/13